## ERIC'S FRIEND

BY AUGUSTA HERBERT.

Entered according to Act of Course Clerk's Office, of the District Court of the District of New York, by Moses 8, Re-year one thousand eight hundred and sax

At first she was displeased that the beds in the garret had been untoo st, while the precious sleepers in her truncle bed had all been taken out of hie.

But gradually a different mood possessed her,

one, ben the new balov entered upon the stage

Weil, the pretty feathered creature's love and

Weil, the pretty feathered creature's love and caresses conforted its mistress very much—then its comic antics amused her and set her to laughting, and then the load at her heart was gene.

What if she did get ill treated? all peer children were spit to be so, and she was much better oil than many. She had a great many favors, even from her mistress, cross as she was, she had the good will of the children, the love of baby Rosa, and poor pass, and last and most she had Eric and her bird. God was very good to her; the hoped (and here ber reflections took the form of prayer) that he would not notice and punish her for her angrateful depression of spirits. In future she would try to "Rejoice evermore."

Tula was allowed to take five or six turns about the room, for exercise, and then was returned to his cage, and Jessie set briskly and cheerily about her day's toil.

Soon after breakfast it commenced snowing and it snowed all day long.

That night as Eric at six o'clock, was going for his supper, he noticed in passing a house that stool close by the street a load rejoicing among some children that had gathered in a front room, over something that they had just found. He could hear what they were saying; but in his

over something that they had just found. He could hear what they were saying; but in his baste he did not pay any attention to it. Only one sentence remained in his mind.

"He was half dead when I caught him; but seems well as ever now, and will sing bye and

As Eric, standing in the portico, shook and

stamped the snow off him, he heard an unusual noise in doors.

Entering and passing to the kitchen he found

Jessie on the floor, her open, empty bird cage by her side, moaning and solbling latterly.

Mrs. Creep was loudly soldling at her; but Jessie heeded not nor heard. The children criet in company. There was a great bewailing. Tula was lost. Dead! frozen-I know, in this cold storm,

"Dead's frozen—I know, in this cold storm,"
cried the bound child, wringing her hands and
crying more passionately than ever.
Eric snatched the cage and without a word
darted back to the house above refered to. Hastily entering the unlatched door about which the
children yet clustered he said, "Have you found
a stray canary bird? with a black spot on each
wing?"

The children looked at each other, and their countenances fell.

"I'm afraid it is his, "whispered a little fellow

"I'm afraid it is his, whispered a this sister.
One how tried to step out of the room—he was holding a bird cage behind him.
A lady entered the very door he was about passing through.
"Where are you going with this bird?" she said. Then the secret was out.
"What do you want my dear?" said the lady to Eric.

Please ma'am, our Jessie has lost her cana-

ry bird—yellow, with a black spot on each wing, and as I went by here I heard some one say he had found something that would sing soon, and I thought I'd come in and see if it was her bird. "And you were trying to get the bird out of the way, were you, Harry? You naughty boy!" Harry began to cry. The lady took the bird tharry began to cry. The lady t

"It is without doubt your Jessie's bird," she aid. "Take it, and the cage also—I gave the age to Harry and intended to get him a bird very soon, but to punish him for his attempted lishonesty he will have to wait a year or two onger for his bird. The cage I send to Jessie."

Eric, greatly delighted, thanked the good lady and narried away, a cage in each hand. He had the one with Tula in it under his coat in order to protect the light.

the one with rolls in a under his coat in order to protect the leigh.

Jese's still sat on the floor; but she was not so load in her grief when he reached the kitchen. Before the children could give vent to the sheat of joy which they raised on beholding the recovered bird, in its betaitful new wage, he had swung it before the very ness of Jessie.

She shricked with astonishment and joy—sprang up and hugged first the cage and then Eric."

Where did you find him? Who gave you

this spicialid case?" she usked. Even Mrs. Creep felt interested and curious. Eric told his

my liberties, ack were the looks that Mr. Croep in Joe Hunker—when the latter was gehr when the jetty cyes of that durk-me face were directed towards Mr. at gentleman never indulged himself

It is hair, coorse and tightly curled was black as his eyes, and his long, thick beard was like and it. He never were a cont and his trowsers were strapped about his sturdy waist. He was a very good workman; but somehow it was of all water more than of leather that he smelled, which he did whenever he those (arether of his remarkable liberties) his abite teeth gleamed through his beard like helptonian through a cloud. Sometimes that sudden ignit finited one with fear. Joe was certainly a tranger follow, and he knew how to keep people tetricy. But he also knew how to attract and attach to imself those who pleased him.

For Roland and Erde he had ever felt a warm frection. His anger at the death—the murder—

a speck of a garret in it, and that had a thou-

os he gazed, almost fascinated in the clocking face, the dark, bandsome, sitract-c et doe, had many a consultation with as to whether he had better go away

Jessie asked no questions. She was very kind. When the tears came to his eyes and he hung his head she looked at him in deep pity, and said, in a w tone.

head she looked at him in deep pity, and said, in o w tones.
"Poor Eric!"
The miserable boy choked down a bit of bread and a cup of bot tea and was off to the shop. Joe Bunker was the only man there. He saw at a glance the condition of his pet, and kindly patting him on the head, began to talk of beging days.

"Let me alone," said Eric pettishly. If you id not encourage me to drink I should not be alf so unhappy as I am. It is that, not the eating, that troubles me. I have nothing in its world but misery, and if I make a drunkard f myself I shall have nothing but misery in the eat."

Joe showed no displeasure at this. "You shall Joe showed no displeasure at this. "You shain never drink another drop of my liquor, or at my asking," said he. "I only gave it to you to drown trouble, my boy. If it makes more than it cures there is no use in taking it. I have no purpose ever to do you any hut, either in body or mind. But if you are ever to make anything of yourself you must get out of this hell's nest—and the sconer the better."

The two had nore talk which we will not re-

The two had more talk which we will not re-That was a long sad day to Jessie; but it !

ation starting every time be heard a step be-inch him. Fears are, semetimes, eminous, Morning dawnedin the garret of the Creep nursion. Jessie lifted her head, which ached and felt light and stupid, and locked about her. "Eric is not awake, thought she, not seeing cross the garret very clearly. "I'll dress as si-lently a I can and make the fires before he gets-

While she was busy kindling fires, Mrs.Creep,

"No ma'am."

"Perhaps he got asleep in the office. He does sometimes when he writes late. Where is Eric—he must run round and see if he can find his uncle. I thought he might be on the sofa in the sitting room. He slept there twice last week; but he isn't there."

Jessie, going on with her work, did not feel any interest in what madame Creep was saying.

"Eric! Eric!" she hear her calling in the work had not feel and the control of the c

upper hall.
Presently she entered the room where Jessie
was, looking rather wild.
"I thought you said Eric was not yet up!"

Cathenedy opening the parior door, Mrs.Creep stepped in: but she stepped out much more nimbly. The perior blimb —thick wooden shutters —were, as awakinghity closed, making the room yery olark, so that Mrs. Creep had not seen any thing, while she had very distinctly filt the nubblen awant of an unweighly object that seemed reling and fleeping, like a clausey she of mammoth properties, about the parior floor.

With a most unusabal served making the room of what was in the mind of Mr. Wilson regard him, deep not every moment.

With a most unusabal served making hope in the first sight of her had impored him, deep not every moment.

Whith a most unusabal served making hope in the mind of Mr. Wilson regard to the trial sight of her had impored him, deep not every moment.

Whith a most unusabal served making hope in the mind of Mr. Wilson regard to the half and shut to the tart.

The hold did not, however, understand much of the mind of Mr. Wilson regard to the trial sight of her had imported him, deep not every moment.

"She shall lack nothing which I can impart the now of the carness absorbed face that she was be sat-only instead and was to be carnes; absorbed face that she sate of the earness absorbed face that she sate of the earness absorbed face that she was be to be that bright, laughing one, which had stamped itself so deeply upon the mint of the stamped itself so deeply upon the mint of the stamped itself so deeply upon the mint of the stamped itself so deeply upon the interest to be that bright, laughing one, which had stamped itself so deeply upon the mint of the stamped itself so deeply upon the interest to be that bright, laughing one, which had stamped itself so deeply upon the interest to be that bright, laughing one, which had stamped itself so deeply upon the interest to be that bright, laughing one, which had stamped itself so deeply upon the interest to be that bright, laughing to the carness absorbed face that she work to be that very laughing to the carness absorbed face that she were to the carn

way; but now sick knew that to do so was no use.

"You better laugh! you unnatural children!"
she said, indiguant at the state of the two on the stairs.

"Come here, this minute, and go into that partie and open the blinds.

"Why don't you go?" asked the wary Joe.

"No matter said his mother do as I but you.

Just at that moment there was a charge made from witch upon the partie door. This frightened the whole family. They rashed pell mell up stairs.

"Go call the neighbors," ordered Mrs. Creep, as she hastened to get on ner choiles.

"Why, it's Rosa, as sure as I live," was the astonished exchamation of the mother. "Who showed you have to draw Rosa, child?"

"Nobedy, I thought perhaps I could—so I tried."

"Nobedy, I thought perhaps I could—so I tried."

He had tried saving more than is meet, and found it tended to poverty, now he thought he would see if a certain sort of scattering, which he had in his mind would increase his which he had in his mind would increase his safety and happiness if not his wealth. And first he began to speak good naturelly to such of his employers as hechanced to meet.

While she was busy kindling fires, Mrs.Creep, in night array, popped her head in at the door and said, "Have you seen any thing of father any where?"

Jessie thought to herself, "Much of a father he is to any of us!" but she only answered, "No, ma'am."

"I don't see where he can be, "said Mrs.Creepin an anxious tone, "He hasn't been in bed all night. I went to steep early and did not hear him come in. You didn't fasten him out, did you?"

"No ma'am."

"Perhaps he got asleep in the office. He does sometimes when he writes late. Where is Eric—he must run round and see if he can find his uncle. I thought he might be on the sofa in the sitting room. He slept there twice last week; but he isn't there."

Jessie, going on with her work, did not feel any interest in what madame Creep was saying.

The fiel Eric! Fiel! The left was compared to meet.

His greeting was met, in several cases by a stare of amazement; but that did not 'put him out, as they say in Maine. He held on steadily in the better way upon which he had entered, and it was not a year before he began to see very gratifying results from the charge. He gave as week syveration to his men during the mid-summer heat, he increased their wages, and when Christmas came every man in his employ was presented with a good stout pair of boots.

Instead of finding himself the poorer for all this liberality when the year's accounts were closed, Mr. Creep found to his satisfaction that he never yet stood better, if so well, with the world. He saids to his wife, and declared that he wished he had been always a more generous and unselish man. How he would have felt thad his books balanced differently we cannot undertake to say. When tribulation arises from right donor people are only too apt to give

m right doing people are only too apt to give er, discouraged and offended. Meantime Jessie's star began to ascend. Deb-

a manner so pelished, and yet so genial that he chained all hearts, even Mrs. Creep's.

His yoice was deep and musical, and the mo-Creep had taken a notion to have her accom-Mrs. Creep at first opposed this wish; but

posed, and that night the hour for reading was a cutt and allowed. He acknowledge the court and allowed the court and thirty-should read the thirty-dist and thirty-should read the thirty-dist and thirty-should read the chirty-dist and thirty-should read the chirty-dist and thirty-should read the chirty-dist all thirty-should read the chirty-dist and thirty-should read the chirty-dist all thirty-should read the chirty-dist all thirty-should read the chirty-dist all thirty-should read the chirty-dist and thirty-should read the chirty-dist all thirty-should read the chirty-should read the chirty-should read

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Feeling very nervous and anxious she obeyed the summens, and stood in the blue calico frock, that Mrs. Creep had given her to wear to school, and which, knowing that company was coming, she had slipped on as soon as the supper dishes were washed, at the parlor door.

"Come in, child, said her mistress, "This ir, is the girl you were speaking of, As you are so reasonable as to take both my own and her for half the usual price of one, I do not see how I can refuse to allow them to go, Robert has always manifested a decided talent for painting. I have frequently thought that he might become an artist; but his father has no fancy for encouraging such tastes."

Mrs. Creep talked on still longer, but no one paid attention to what she was saying. The

aid attention to what she was saying. The gentlemen had obtained the thing for which they had come, namely her consent that Jessie should take lessons of Mr. Carlyle, and now they were ready to depart. Mr. Creep they saw was but a cipher in the business, "Just as wife says,"was all he ever had to say in matters relating to the

The idea that Bob was to take lessons of the artist nearly provoked a loud laugh from Jossie. Fortunately for her own prospects she succeeded in surpressing it, and with a face glowing from the effort, as well as with embarrassment at the classification of the strength meeting the stranger artist, she came forward and was drawn to his side. He was a large and very handsome man, with

ment he touched and spoke to her, Jessie knew that they would always be the best of friends.

His artistic taste was delighted by the grace and beauty of his new pupil, and when he passed his hand beneath her chin and lifted her blushing face to his gaze, the merry sparkle of Jessie's dark orbs, and the sly smiles that were trying to hide themselves amid the dimples round her pretty, rosy mouth, rendered that soft face so bewitching an object that Mr. Carlyle resolved to paint it the first thing he did.

"I'd take her for nothing and pay her board besides," he said to his friend the teacher, as they

seen going in and out of one's doer. None of her neighbers had a visitor that could at all compare with him.

Gentlemen can often see their advantage, and they are seldom slow to take it. Mr. Carlyle prossed his suit so warmly and with such skill that he won it. He succeeded in making the poor woman alraid to oftend not only himself, but Jessie. He impressed her with the belief that the latter was certainly to become a rich lady, widely known and honored, and that the very best thing she could do for herself was to advance the present interests of this future lady, in all ways in her power.

"Think, madam," said he in an emphatic manner, "think what will be the gratification of your feelings, when you refeel as you see that gifted creature standing high upon the hill of fame, that by gone kindness she was assisted to arrive there. Were you to refuse to do your duty by her, other friends would be raised up to supply all her needs, for He who made her what she is, will surely provide the means for her education; but you would deprive yourself of all honor and advantage, in the matter. I say advantage, for I have no doubt that she is, will surely provide the means for her education; but you would deprive yourself of all honor and advantage, in the matter. I say advantage, for I have no doubt that she is, will surely provide the means for her education; but you would deprive yourself of all honor and advantage, in the matter. I say advantage, for I have no doubt that she is, will surely provide the means for her education; but you would deprive yourself of all honor and advantage, in the matter. I say advantage, for I have no doubt that she is, will surely provide the means for her education; but you would deprive yourself of all honor and advantage, in the matter. I say advantage, for I have no doubt that she information that I my-slf have gained in the matter of painting and to clothe her until she begins to earn money for herself. You agree, do you not, to the proposal?

Mrs. Creep thi agree, and after a few mom

Mrs. Creep did agree, and after a few moments further conversation of a nature that was very agreeable to Mrs. Creep the artist gracefully bowed himself from her presence and was gone.

Just as the door closed behind him the bell rang for support.

Just as the door closed behind him the behing rang for supper.

Jessie, whose face burned and whose eyes almost glared with excitement and anxiety stood leaning against the wall as her mistress entered. She asked no question; but eagerly scanned the countenance before her.

The complacent smirk that she beheld there told nothing. Perhaps that was because she had sent Mr. Carlyle off disappointed and angry. Jussie had often seen that look just after Erichad been well whipped. She had no reason to like it.

had been well whipped. She had no related the like it.

"What do you stand there for, staring at me and swallowing as though trying to get down a whole chicken?"

Jessie said nothing: but she began to grow white about the mouth.

"You need not go to fainting. What a provoking child you are, Jessie." Mrs. Creep was about launching off into a regular scokling speech when she remembered all on a sudden that it might be to a future lady, a great artist, that she was speaking. She therefore changed her tone

by pouring it out in thanks to Got i pray that he would exercise over Eric th

pray that he would exercise over Eric the tender sare.

It was a bright and pleasant day in Se ber and Jessie, rid at last of her not over a ble compasion Bob, set out alone for the it.

Her heart was full of gratitude and ji besides her delight at being allowed to counder the care of Mr. Carlyle, size carries her, placed safely in her pocket a good long from Eric—the first letter she had ever recombine.

He gave, in a brief but very forcible mu-his reasons for quarting his master, as he te-his mother's brother, and spoke feelingly o-parting from his "dear, dear sister Jessie," ny tears fell from Jessie's soft dark eyes a read these lines, and she felt an unwilling for any other eyes to see them. But as she convinced that the tone of the letter would ish forever any doubt as to Eric's perfect het and of his innocence of any knowledge of Bunker's crimes, she consluded to allow his Mrs. Creep, as well as the elder children, to

triumph. To be Continued.

To be Continued.

WAR DEPERTMENT,
WAR DEPERTME

WARD EPARTMEN
Grave complaints against Assistant 8:
Hewitt and Stripp naving reached the Department street are susperied from duty, and order report thems eives. A negligent or inhumageon is regarded by this Department as any of his country and of his race, and will be will according to the utmost rigor of milital will according to the utmost rigor of milital conditions.

He spoke of Joe as being very kind to him

For that reason some people bedre. Without was never tempted by at being so addressed, Jessic colored rice to hide her picture.

Let me have no child. Who taught like uses ? Who is this?

"On I he is first rate, was the reply. "Only his companion.

"On I he is first rate, was the reply. "Only his companion of this companion.

"On I he is first rate, was the reply. "Only his possible genus was very like his own.

"A fine plan I and quite likely to company that is companion.

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"A fine plan I and quite likely to company that is companion.

"A fine plan I and quite likely to company that is company that is company that is made that supported him, and take this company.

"On I he is first rate, was the reply. "Only keep still—to hates a more small a follow can do also as he has a mind to. If don't come near memore than twice a day."

Jessie was soon absorbed in the analy of her distributed being distributed being the hidely to company that it is not to the supported him, and take with a robber or a puzzlen and guide, was the reply. "Only keep still—to hates a more cannot a follow can do also the his company.

"A fine plan I and quite likely to company the more than two company that is not to the supported him, and take with a robber or a puzzlen and quite likely to company the more than two company that is not to the supported him, and take with a robber or a puzzlen and quite likely to company the more than two company

WAR DEPARTMEN I

EDWIN M. SBANTON, Secretary of W.